

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2

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PLO TO TARGET HUSSEIN IF HE TALKS TO ISRAEL

By URI DAN, *Mideast Correspondent*

KING Hussein of Jordan will become the top target on the PLO hit list if he enters into direct peace negotiations with Israel, according to Israeli intelligence experts.

Hussein had been working closely with the Palestine Liberation Organization since last February to set up Mideast peace talks, but that cooperation collapsed last week due to the Achille Lauro hijacking and other events.

Now Israeli intelligence sources say the king himself "is aware of the danger" from the PLO

That is why Hussein is hesitant to accept Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' offer of direct talks, they say.

Arab newspapers have reported that Hussein's own intelligence service warned him that the PLO — which was allowed back into Jordan in August 1982 — has now built such a strong base in the country that it could be a threat to his monarchy.

But despite those warnings, Hussein so far has taken no action to crack down on the PLO bases, one of which is just a few hundred yards from his own palace in the Jordanian capital of Amman, ac-

cording to Israeli military intelligence.

In addition, 600 PLO guerrillas reportedly are being trained at a military base near the town of Zarka.

Hussein could be caught in a tight squeeze because of pressure from Washington.

A sizable majority of U.S. senators — 71 in all — have signed a statement saying that unless Jordan begins talks with Israel, they will oppose President Reagan's plan to sell \$1.9 billion worth of arms to Jordan.

Senate Republican leaders said they would propose restrictions on the use of the warplanes, air defense missiles and other military equipment in hopes of avoiding a Senate rejection of the sale, which would embarrass President Reagan.

Hussein's grandfather, King Abdullah, was murdered 30 years because of his talks with the Israelis.

Foreign reports have said Hussein met secretly with Peres two weeks ago.